



From the Desk of the Superintendent

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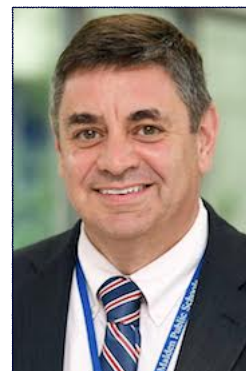
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Malden Public Schools stands in solidarity with our community in outrage over George Floyd's death

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

To all in the Malden Public Schools Community,

The past two weeks have been a very difficult and violent period of time in our country. We are deeply saddened, disturbed and outraged by the death of George Floyd. We grieve with his family, his friends, and his community as they try to comprehend the reality and senselessness of his brutal, indefensible death. Horrible and blatant acts of racism have marked this Spring across America. There must be meaningful dialogue and action to address this by all of us. The Malden Public Schools is committed to advocating for and promoting racial justice. We stand united with our students, staff and leaders in the fight against systemic injustice and inequality. **Continued on Page 6**



Superintendent Oteri



Millions across the nation are grieving and protesting the injustice of George Floyd's death in Minnesota

Supt. Oteri forms Malden Public Schools Re-Entry Task Force to formulate plan to open the 2020-21 school year in the fall

Action group includes both School Department and city leaders who will determine guidelines and guideposts of what 'Back to School' will look like

By Steve Freker

For the Malden Public Schools

While school buildings have been closed since mid-March, the operations of the Malden Public Schools have not been paused or slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nor has the learning of its nearly 6,700 students.

If anything, Malden Public Schools staff has increased its pace, answering the myriad challenges of putting a Remote Learning Program into effect, seemingly overnight, in addition to addressing many other needs of students and their families.

Food insecurity has also been a major focus of Superintendent John Oteri and his staff, as well as addressing the burgeoning social-emotional toll, caused by trauma. Financial loss has hit many families hard, as well as literal loss of loved ones who may have passed away following sickness. As the official school year draws to a close, with the last day of school being June 19, planning has already begun in earnest on preparations for the start of the 2020-21 school year in September. The traditional "Back to School," this time around, has been supplanted with the term "Re-Entry



There are many questions to be answered and plans to be formulated before the Malden Public Schools academic year begins on Sept. 2. *Courtesy Photo*

On School Re-Entry Planning: "It's like playing badminton in a windstorm. The questions are endless. The more you talk about it, the more issues you identify," *Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Executive Director Tom Scott in a Boston Globe article*

Planning." Supt. Oteri told the Malden School Committee at its June 1 meeting he has established a Malden Public Schools Re-Entry Task Force, consisting of a variety of school department and city leaders, as well as some students and school parents.

The Superintendent said a May meeting involved introductions of the task force members as well as the presentation of an overview of the current situation involving the COVID-19 pandemic. "We also projected how (the pandemic) would impact the re-entry of our students and staff in September," Supt. Oteri said, saying he and his central staff presented information regarding the latest guidance on school re-entry from the Governor's Office and the

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Superintendent Oteri's *Letter on some FY21 School Budget points*

Dear Malden School Community

I want to take a moment to clarify some information that was presented to the Budget Subcommittee recently.

In anticipation of major cuts at both the state and federal level, we are working on what we believe will be the best-case scenario which is a level-funded budget (\$74,200,150) for the upcoming school year. This means we are working with \$2,000,000 less than what is needed to operate. Knowing that, our first and foremost priority has been to preserve the integrity of the classroom which includes funding the Early Learning Center (ELC).

In order to make up the gap we have proposed not filling open positions while also making some cuts to non-direct classroom staff. However, in the event we need to cut 5 or 10 percent beyond the level-funded budget, the closure or modification of services to the ELC as well as all items in the school budget would need to be looked at by the School Committee.

It should also be noted that the discussion around a one-year hiatus for the ELC was due to the safety of our students and staff. We must be cognizant of the potential re-entry of our most vulnerable students in the age of COVID-19 and Kawasaki Syndrome while



also thinking about the CDC guidelines and safety precautions in that building in particular.

This year's budget is also compounded by the number of unknowns and uncertainties that we are faced with including whether we will return to school in person or remotely or whether our return will be a hybrid of remote and in-person. These questions and their potential answers further add to the budget complexity.

Regardless of how we end up, please know that we are committed to serving the students and families of Malden to the best of our capabilities with the service and support they deserve. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Oteri

Superintendent of Malden Public Schools

The Malden Public Schools Food Service Dept. continues to provide free meals (Breakfast & Lunch) at two sites: Malden High @ Ferry St. entrance/ CVS & Salemwood School, 529 Salem St. DAILY from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Both sites are DRIVE-UP and both meals may be received at once. Children do not have to be present @ the pickup site in order for families to receive the meals.

Malden Public School educators & staff took to the streets to honor MHS Seniors at their homes!



Clockwise from left, Supt. Oteri thanks those who took part in Sunday's Senior Parade. Above, a grad and her family. "Grad Dog" at right. Below, Happy grads! *All Photos Steve Freer/MPS*



All Photos by Steve Freer / For the Malden Public Schools



Statement from Malden Police Chief Kevin Molis

In the Preamble to our Constitution the following words are written:

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

This hope of a more perfect union relies upon the efforts and actions of people who carry with them many human imperfections. The humble and realistic acknowledgement of human imperfection, however, does not provide immunity when it results in the foreseeable cause of death or undue suffering of others.

Throughout our history there have been times when those powerful words have been challenged, contradicted, ignored, blasphemed and profaned by the acts or omissions of those in power or authority.

Sadly and tragically, that is what I along with many of you witnessed this week in what we now can legally call the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We have all witnessed the painful images of a police officer kneeling upon the neck of George Floyd while he repeatedly said that "he could not breathe" and called for his mother.

On a personal and professional level, I am admittedly repulsed in saying that it was a police officer because in my opinion the one presently accused of murder and those who were present and wearing badges failed not only as police officers...they also failed to act as human beings.

There cannot be a UNITED STATES OF AMERICA if there exists examples of A TALE OF DIFFERENT TWO CITIES within any one city or place... where there is "a best of times for some and a worst of times for others, a season of Light and a Season of Darkness, where some have everything before them and others have nothing before them...

...Where equal justice and treatment is influenced by who you are and which police officers you encounter.

Last night at midnight and at 8:00 AM this morning, I attended roll call. The officers said that there were "HERE" when their names were called. In saying that word, they were NOT saying that they were "HERE" for only them self or for only their fellow police officers. They were saying that they are "HERE" for you. To protect you and to serve you with no regard to race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or whatever physical or emotional burden that you may carry. It is the values that your officers hold as individuals and the values that we hold as a police department.

For the good people of Malden. In the most diverse city in Massachusetts.

People from all over the world have chosen Malden as the place where they want to live, work, worship and raise a family.

As your police chief, I want you to know...

When a Malden cop kneels it is to give lifesaving CPR, it is to reach down and help someone who needs to be lifted up, it is to look into the eyes of a child in need of comfort or support... and now we kneel...we kneel in prayer... in the hope that the God that we worship and pray to in many different ways, words and languages will hear our prayers for healing and unity...and lift us up together... stronger and more united than we were before.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL....

Chief Kevin Molis

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE: The #1 priority of our response to the crisis caused by the pandemic has been the safety & well-being of our students and their families and that will not change

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Please know that our entire Malden Public Schools administration and staff is acutely aware of the impact that the events of the past two weeks may have and will have on our students and their families. Coupled with the severe impact and disruption to their lives caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the terrifying reality of George Floyd's death and its aftermath, is too much that anyone can be expected to bear. Our young people and their families had been facing a heavy burden already, faced with the consequences of the pandemic and the trauma that followed. The events of these past two weeks have affected all of our lives in different ways and on many levels. Considering our status as the most diverse community in the state and the #1 most diverse school district, the aftermath of George Floyd's death has been felt even deeper in Malden. Our hearts go out to all of our students and the entire Malden Public Schools community and offer any support we are able to provide in this time of anguish and outrage. We commend how many of our students and staff have already responded, with some thoughtful and supportive statements and actions. We fully and strongly endorse a student-led march that was planned and held Friday, June 5, which included many Malden Public Schools students and staff members. Also on Thursday night, members of our school community participated in a virtual vigil hosted by Malden CORE, which honored the memory of George Floyd. All of you will continue to be in our prayers as we navigate through these trying times. You will continue to have a voice and the unconditional support of the Malden Public Schools. As our 2019-20 school year comes to a close, with the last official day being on June 19, I would like to personally thank all of our educators, administrators and staff **See P.10**

DESE Commissioner Riley commends caregivers of students locally, statewide; Updates on status of Remote Learning as school year approaches its completion

The following communication was addressed from Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Jeffrey Riley to caregivers of Massachusetts Public Schools students on May 8. In this letter, he commends parents and guardians for their resolute support of the Remote Learning Program now in place locally and statewide. He also recaps DESE's four-phase guideline which will complete this school year and begin the next, 2020-21.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), thank you for your partnership and for helping make education possible for all children in the state during these difficult times.

The importance of students' and families' health and well-being is never far from our minds. As a parent, I know that having schools in session, but school buildings closed, can be confusing and upsetting for students. As commissioner of K-12 public education in Massachusetts, my goal is to help all students stay safe and continue their learning.



Commissioner Riley

As you know, in an effort to prevent further spread of COVID-19, the Governor has closed school buildings for the rest of this school year. Teaching and learning continue to take place remotely. The Department has helped schools respond through four phases of work.

1. The first phase began in mid-March, when schools were required to close for three weeks. The Department focused on student safety, nutrition, and other basic needs. Meeting these needs continue to be top priorities.
2. The second phase started in late March, when schools were required to close through early May. The Department provided initial guidance to schools (on March 24) and a letter to families (on March 30) along with a list of educational resources for remote learning. **Cont. on Page 10**

The Malden Public Schools: 'Our Diversity is Our Strength'

The Malden school district is ranked #1 as the most culturally diverse by *niche.com* in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with Malden High School rated the #1 most culturally diverse secondary education school overall. Throughout the district, all educators, administrators and students are unified in our stated mission to cherish and embrace our diversity, striving for excellence in the classroom and beyond.

The members of the Malden High School Class of 2020 had their "in person" school year cut short by the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. But before the school year transferred in Remote Learning, some seniors got a chance to say hello outside of MHS to Superintendent Oteri, far right. Plans are in the works for a "live" Graduation Day sometime in August.



Please GO to:

www.2020Census.gov

and complete the 2020 Census. It is vitally important for Malden's future in terms of identifying funding for our educational system.

School Committee receives update on Malden Public Schools' establishment of Re-Entry Task Force and plans for start of 2020-21 school year

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state Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE).

"It is still hard to know what reopening our schools in September looks like," Supt. Oteri said, "and we know it is frustrating to our students, their families and our staff members.

"But we are still waiting for some guidelines that are still being drafted by DESE Commissioner (Jeffrey) Riley. Those guidelines will determine how we proceed in a number of areas," Supt. Oteri added. The Superintendent said he hopes to be receiving some of that pertinent DESE guideline information by mid-June.

"We know what part of the fall will look like. We are going to need to have a lot of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on hand," Supt. Oteri said, adding that school districts have already been informed to have a three-month supply of PPE on hand, ahead of opening the schools in September. "We have been advised to have

thermometers, gowns, disposal gloves, N95 masks for our nurses and a large supply of disposal masks," the Superintendent said. "On a daily basis, students will be responsible for bringing their own mask, but if not we have to have a supply in the schools to provide one for them."

Supt. Oteri said he will be distributing a survey to MPS staff members to confirm if they are coming back to work in the school system, and also to have an outlet to express concerns they might have, presumably on health and safety issues.

Supt. Oteri said the Re-Entry Task Force includes himself, Asst. Supt. Dr. Kelly Chase; Asst. Supt. Michael Wood; Malden School Committee members Adam Weldai and Leonard Iovino; all of the building principals in the district; MPS Human Resources Director Ashley Pierre; Malden Public Health Director Chris Webb; MPS Nursing Director Patricia Tramandozzi; City Facilities Director Eric Rubin; Malden Emergency Management Director and Malden Police Capt. Glenn Cronin; Malden Education Association (MEA) President Deb Gesualdo; MPS Director of Athletics and Health Charlie Conefrey; Malden City Councilor Peg Crowe, along with some MPS students and parents.

FERRYWAY SCHOOL WILL NOT CONTINUE IN STATE EXTENDED LEARNING TIME PROGRAM

The Malden Public Schools ended its 13-year participation in the state's Extended Learning Time (ELT) Program Monday night when the School Committee voted unanimously not to pursue grant funding for the 2020-21 school year.

Citing the state budget crisis and an already announced drop of over 80 percent in state funding for the program,

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school officials Monday estimated it would cost about \$1.5 million to continue the ELT Program at the Ferryway K-8. The Ferryway School was the only Malden school participating in the ELT program this school year. Since the launch of the program in Malden in 2006-07, both the Ferryway and Salemwood Schools took part in the program, but the program did not continue this year at Salemwood. The ELT program consists of added learning time and later dismissal, at 3:30 p.m. It adds approximately 300 hours of learning time per year. Now, all schools in Malden will run on similar schedules for the first time in 13 school years.

Malden Public Schools Mission Statement

Malden Public Schools is a place where students are encouraged to follow their dreams and become well rounded members of our community. The Malden Public Schools prepare students to be independent thinkers and enthusiastic learners who: Work hard; Respect others; Cherish our diversity; Seek challenges; Discover and Develop their individual talents; Strive for academic excellence; and look to Demonstrate personal and social responsibility. Malden Public Schools graduates are prepared to be active participants in our economy and democracy.

Supt. Oteri's Letter to Ferryway School Community: **Malden Public Schools will not continue Extended Learning Time at Ferryway in 2020-21 school year**

To the Ferryway School Community:

On Monday, June 1, the Malden School Committee voted to not apply for the Extended Learning Time (ELT) Grant due to the state budget crisis. The Governor's budget drastically underfunds the ELT program and it is doubtful it will be fully funded when the revised budget comes out in late summer. In order to be fiscally prudent and give ample notice to families to plan, the committee voted unanimously to not participate in the program as it would potentially leave the district to fund the \$1.25M it costs to run the ELT Program at the Ferryway.

At the inception of the program in 2006-07, the faculty was compensated at a rate of 18% above their base salary. However,

due to level funding of this grant over the years by the State, a deficit was created which the School Department has had to fund. The Malden School Committee has always held the position that the



ELT Grant had to be self-sustaining and not come out of the operating budget which would ultimately affect other schools. This year, with the looming state deficit, it is highly likely that there will be little or no funding for the ELT program from the state.

We realize this will be a great change for the Ferryway School community and we will assess other options to help our students and families. As we move forward, we will continue to be in communication so that everyone is updated.

John Oteri

Superintendent of Malden Public Schools



KINDERGARTEN **REGISTRATION**

for the 2020-2021 School Year is now available online at Malden Public Schools website located at www.maldenps.org
All forms and information are available on the website!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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who have worked continuously and so diligently to plan, coordinate and deliver our Remote Learning Program to our students and their families, over the 10-plus weeks our school buildings have been closed to date. While the program does not and was not intended to replace the traditional educational model we have all been accustomed to using, we were able to ensure that the learning continued for the students of our districts. We commend Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Kelly Chase and our Director of Instructional Technology Natalia Brennan for all of their efforts to ensure that our educators and students alike had the resources they needed to effectively participate in our district's Remote Learning Program.

I would also like to express our gratitude to our Food Services Director Omar Hernandez and his staff for their coordination and daily operation of the free breakfast and lunch program which has consistently provided meals to hundreds of our families since Day One of our school closure. At two sites on either side of the city, we have done our part to provide food security to every Malden student's family who had wanted to take advantage of our program.

As we approach the closing of the most turbulent school year in American history, let us once again acknowledge the strength and fortitude of spirit expressed by the members of our Class of 2020 Malden High School seniors, whose entire final year was upended right before their very eyes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The culmination of their school careers, 12-plus years in the making for most, was bereft of some of the most cherished traditions. Thank you to all who have worked to provide them some positive memories such as the Senior Parade on May 31 and we are still planning on a live Graduation Day if city and CDC protocols at the time will allow it in August. Go forth and succeed just as you have planned, Class of 2020! The crisis you have lived through this year will only make you stronger to face what lies ahead. To all, take care of yourselves and your loved ones. Stay safe and healthy.

John Oteri

Superintendent of Malden Public Schools



COMMISSIONER'S LETTER Cont. from Page 6

3. We are currently in the third phase. We now know that schools will be closed through the end of the school year (late June for most schools). Because of this, we released updated guidance on remote learning (download) on April 24 to help schools strengthen local efforts.
4. We are also thinking ahead to the fourth phase, when students and staff will eventually re-enter school buildings. We are working with school leaders, and health and safety experts to plan and prepare for this.

Schools and teachers have been doing their best to support your children with remote learning. In your community this may or may not include online learning (using computers, tablets, phones, etc.), but remote learning can include any combination of resources supported by the school and teacher to help your child make progress in their education while classes are unable to be together.

For more details about the updated remote learning guidance and other resources that may be helpful during school closures, please see the School Connectedness document which is posted on our Learning at Home web page (www.doe.ma.edu), and other information which is also available there.

Thank you again for all you are doing to help your children learn, connect with their teachers, and continue important daily routines. If you have other questions for us not addressed here, you can email COVID19K12ParentInfo@mass.gov or call (781) 338-3700.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner